

Pst. Oghenethoja Umuteme MSc MDiv ThD

Fruitful Vine

MARCH
EDITION
MAR 2019

A Study Devotional

**Not for
Sale**



Spending Time with God

Time	Description	Action
5:00am - 5:30am	Praising His awesomeness in the cool of the morning breeze and Dedicating of the day's activity. You may decide to do it outside to feel the cool morning breeze	Prayer/Praise
9:00am-9:05am	Read a Psalm of praise back to Him. Tell Him what you feel for Him in adoration and total submission	Praise
12:00noon - 12:30pm	It is noontime – half of the workday is gone. Tell Him thank you for allowing you cross over to the other half of the workday. Thank Him for all that transpired while you worked	Prayer/Praise
4:00pm- 4:05pm	Read another Psalms of Praise	Praise
6:00pm - 6:30pm	Thank Him for the day. You are probably now at home. Call the family together or a neighbour and worship Him together	Prayer/Praise
9:00pm - 9:05pm	Read a Psalms of praise after which you should take a rest while reading your bible and meditating	Praise
11:55pm - 12:30am	Thank Him for allowing you to see a new day and take control of the new day	Prayer/Praise

(c) Oghenethoja Umuteme 2019

ISBN: 978-179-658-957-3

Imprint: Independently Published by Restoration Media House

Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from the King James Version and New King James Version of the Holy Bible. Scripture quotations marked with ESV are taken from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version.

All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. No part of this book shall be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Address all enquiries to the publisher:

Restoration Media House Limited

+234-8086737791, +2348076190064,

Email: rmhltd.info@gmail.com

Follow Pastor Oghenethoja Umuteme on:



Oghenethoja Umuteme



@PstUmuteme



umuthoja



umuthoja



Tojoja

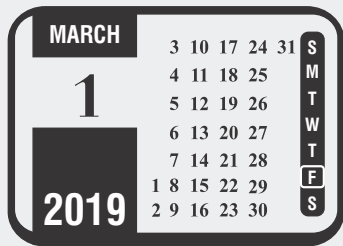
Preface

The month of March is a month many are set to pursue entirely new goals in life. They have fasted in January and made amends in February, and start to test their decisions in the month of March. For us here in Nigeria, we are experiencing a period of transition in governance this 2019. This month is filled with spiritual insights and awakenings. In this month, so much surprises awaits the nation of Nigeria. While, many would decide to lose hope, there is much to expect from this month forward.

Especially, Christians should be able to understand that God is in charge of His creation, and not the voices of men. In accordance with the anticipations of this lovely month, The Fruitful Vine Devotional, is anchored on “marching forward.” The judgement of man is never the judgement of God. The mercies of the Lord are inestimable. They have the wings to make – even the hunted sinner, to become totally forgiven by his or her persecutors. Here, is where the divine providence of God is displayed for eternity. Our drive for spiritual maturity is important in seeing us through our temporary challenges in this material world. Sometimes, we feel abashed that our spiritual walk with God is not yielding the Glory we anticipated, especially when we compare our success with those of unbelievers. In the midst of the above, we can say with all proof that our joy in Christ cannot be compared with what we get from physical lusts. The joy is made manifest more in our struggles. It is even more fulfilling when we walk through unending challenges in our endeavours in life. There and then, we continually confirm that we are growing upright in the will of God. This joy is the reason behind the devotional topics for this month. I see you being lifted beyond the realms of the physical as you take this journey with me. Happy studying.

Pastor Oghenethoja Umuteme

BTech (Mar. Engrg); MSc (Oil & Gas Engrg);
MSc (Organisational Psychology);
MBS (Biblical Studies); MTS (Theological Studies),
MTh (Theology); M.Div. (Divinity);
Th.D. (Theology); PhD (Engrg – in view)



Marching Forward

*The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me?
Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Exodus 14:15 (ESV)*



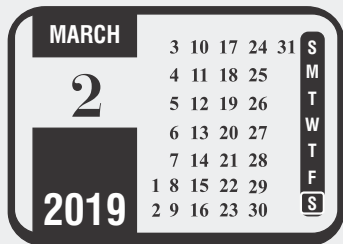
There is the likelihood that many believers are already comparing this year with some years in the past, when things didn't go so well in their works of life, especially with the cry of want all over the place. In the anchor verse above, the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because they were becoming afraid and discouraged to journey into the wilderness when they saw the army of Pharaoh chasing behind them. Did you hear what God said to them? They have no other choice but to go forward. We can take learning from the four living creatures that Ezekiel saw in his vision by the river Chebar, in the land of the Chaldeans when he was in captivity – Ezk 1:9, 12: Their wings were joined together and they moved and kept pressing forward as long as the spirit of God leads them. This is what is expected of Christians. In unity, holding hands together and following the will of the Holy Spirit, we are to keep moving forward. The more we move far away from our source of oppression, the more we walk into the kingdom of light. As the children of Israel journeyed, God led them by the pillar of fire and of cloud (Exo. 13:20-22), even before crossing their greatest obstacle – the red sea. But when they saw the forces of Pharaoh chasing from

behind, they forgot the presence of God in the pillars that witnessed of His faithfulness before them. Those pillars were the mark of God's unending testimonies in their midst. Are you forgetting all His goodness in your life because of economic and political situations? Is there an intimidating force chasing from behind? Are you feeling that you are being hunted by yesterday? Well, here is the word of the Lord – keep pressing forward. Success doesn't come from behind, but ahead. Forge ahead, and your shine will stand the test of temptations.

Faith confession: Henceforth, I soak my entire thought on the command of the Lord to move forward. No force of intimidation can stop me now. I am determined than ever to succeed.

Let us pray: O Lord! let my heart be strong. Let not the faces of intimidation scare me from moving forward. Help my inner spirit to appreciate your presence when I encounter obstacles in life. Let my spirit be wholly united with your purpose. Amen!

Meditation: Prov. 23:17-18; Deut. 31:6-8



The Spirit of Sainthood 1

*He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints... Psalms 148:14 (ESV)*



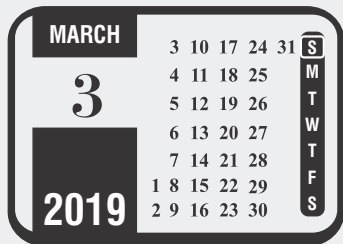
What is so special about the saints of God, that He would raise praise for them? To start with, we need to explain who qualifies as the saints of God. Saints are those who have surrendered their entire life and possession for the service of God, and they are found wherever they go obeying the Lord - doing what He did while on earth. They are in His vineyard doing His will all day long without hesitation (Lu. 17:33). Because of their special nature, God seals (Rev. 7:3) and preserve their soul (Psa. 86:2, 121:7, 2 Tim. 4:18), and God would not allow their body to suffer corruption even at death (Acts 2:27, 13:35). While many thinks that they are buried like every other dead person, the truth is that they are translated before they die and this happens the moment angels come to lead them home (1 Cor. 15:42-44). While people see their earthly body being buried, the real body has been carried to the place prepared for the saint unto eternal rest in the bosom of the Lord. One may now ask - what makes saints so special to the Lord? They are wonderfully and fearfully made, and have become a wonder before everyone (Psa. 71:7) – they are the planting of the Lord

(Isa. 61:3), with a special anointing that announces them (1 Jn. 2:27), and strengthens them to do all things (Phil. 4:13). Saints are therefore, expected to live a life of Praise unto the Lord at all times – “Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day” – Psa. 71:8. This is what defines the value of the image and likeness of God, that we carry. It is the burden that we must bear – to remain as saints all the days of our lives.

Faith confession: Having understand the benefits of sainthood, I am determined to walk this path of the Lord. I am willing to follow our Lord wherever He leads.

Let us pray: Lord – your grace is sufficient for me to enable me follow you wherever you lead. I pray o-Lord, fix your thoughts in my heart. Let my mind be lifted to honour your person in my life continually. Even as the olive tree bears the oil that brings men to you, use my voice to lead souls to your glory. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 71:1-24; Gen. 18:25-32



The Spirit of Sainthood 2

Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. Psalms 50:5 (ESV)



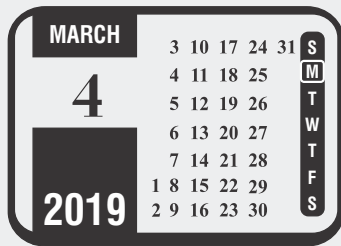
As reflected in the anchor verse above, God takes special concern for His saints. They don't struggle with life because nothing else matters to them but the gospel of truth. Though they command attraction and attention (Lu. 2:40, 52), yet they are hated by many who see them as bearers of light (Jn. 3:19-20) and are out to expose the acts they committed in the dark, in the day before eyewitnesses. Their special duty is to preserve life (Gen. 45:5, Isa. 42:22, Jn. 10:10) through the teaching of the truth. They have the keys of heaven (Matt. 16:19), and the secret lying in the secret place of the Lord (Psa. 91:1), because they have received the word of the Kingdom into their heart and observing it (Matt. 13:19, 52). They are not to be seen arguing with unbelievers - their communication is as brief as "Yes and No" (Matt. 5:37). Their desire is to be with the Lord (Luke 17:34) when they depart this earth. Their Peace comes from living the life Jesus lived, and taking no other responsibility on earth but that of God in Heaven (Matt. 12:48-50, 28:19-20). Saints are Righteous and Holy (Rev. 22:11), because the Lord is Righteous

and Holy (Psa. 145:17), so that they can be as perfect as God (Mat 5:48). Saints are guided by the anointing, as espoused in 1 John 2:27, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." It is important that we strive to be among the saints of God, who are gathered unto Him in the heavenly places, in their thoughts and actions. So that, our lives will become the perfect representation of the will and purpose of God for mankind.

Faith confession: Lord! your will is so perfect that I cannot neglect your call to perfect my ways in your will. I submit myself today unto your anointing.

Let us pray: Lord! Guide me to tread the path that leads to your will for your saints. Let me not be cast out of the gathering of your heavenly saints. Amen!

Meditation: 1 John 3:4-9: 1 Sam. 2:9; Dan. 7:18



Igniting the Fire of Success 1

When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday: Psal. 42:4



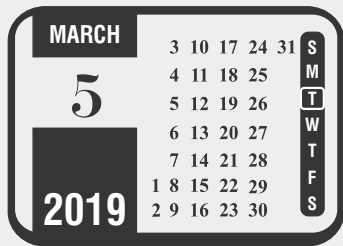
In the anchor verse above, David was faced with a security and safety threat from King Saul, which was aimed at destroying His God-given ambition of becoming the King. Prior to this time, he had been anointed by Samuel. He had also killed Goliath, which made the entire Israel to lift praise to God on his behalf, thus demeaning King Saul. This brought real anger into the heart of the King, who decided to use the armouring of a nation to chase his own citizen, whom he was supposed to protect. What happened to David can be seen naturally as treason, but this was God's move to install a man after His heart to lead His people, as this will give Him full leadership control of Israel. How did David keep His success alive, after He defected Goliath in the midst of challenges? We can notice from the anchor verse above that David remembered what caused him pains. To us, these things could be the death of someone, unemployment, unhappy marriage, stagnation, etc. Yet, instead of David complaining, he poured out his soul, not to the Devil, but to God in the midst of the multitude that went singing

in the house of God. The multitudes he worshiped with kept holy days – such as Sundays, Church Feast days, etc. He didn't go to the bar drinking beer. He didn't went looking for women in the brothel. He went straight to the house of God, in the company of worshipers, not entertainers in church. Which gathering do you find yourself? Many of us stop coming into the house of God, when we are faced with challenges. Others will begin to abuse their faith in public - Malachi 3:13-14.

Faith confession: Lord, I am determined to stop complaining to people concerning my problems. I will continually pour my soul before you as David did.

Let us pray: Help me dear Lord in your magnificence. In you do I put my trust and my hope. Let your word continually strengthen my soul to depend on you always. Amen!

Meditation: Acts 20:24; Isa. 26:3-4



Igniting the Fire of Success 2

...which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Luke 14:28 (ESV)



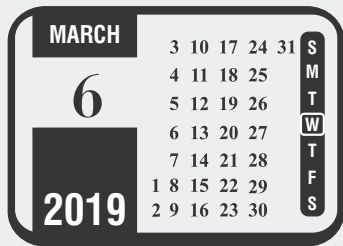
“ Had I known,” is not a language for those desiring success. It is a language of mistake makers. I chose to plan ahead than to complain later. Scripture informs us from the anchor verse above that those who fail to plan, have planned to fail – “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’” – Luke 14:29. Why do we need to ignite the fire of success if not the thoughts of making this world a better place. Let's start the thinking - Think of your family, children, wife or husband. Also, think of the companies you see every day how - they came to be. Again, we must think of God who created a world without form and today there is form in it. Likewise, think of Christ who left heaven to give mankind a better life. Think of newness in all you do. Practice it and you will see newness always. From Monday through Friday, ensure something new is in your life. That is your prayer point daily. You see, our faith in God is the fire that makes success happen. Hence Scripture says in Habakkuk 2:4, “...the just shall live by his faith.” Not by the faith of another, but by his faith. Your success will be

announced through your own faith. “Action” they say, speaks louder than words. You have no right to fail. Never! It is not in the character of God. However, if we do fail, God has given us grace to rise up again – “for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity” – Prov. 24:16 (ESV). We are only unable to rise again because we do not toe the path of God. You can see from our study so far that God is expectant of your exploits.

Faith confession: Lord – Jesus! I know that success is built on faith. I acknowledge the faith I have. I am certain that with this measure of faith in me, I can do exploits.

Let us pray: Ever Faithful God, it is your desire that mankind exercise your faith daily, rather than complaining about the obstacles of life. I pray that you help me to keep realising this fact of life. Help me with your divine power and spirit to acknowledge greatness, and to live by your promises.

Meditation: Rev. 6:2; Rom. 8:37-39; Joshua 1:8



Preserving the fire of Success

... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Matt. 17:20



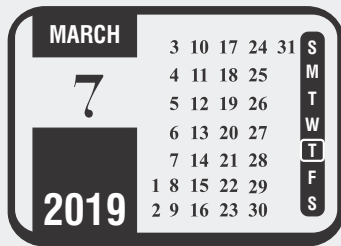
We preserve the fire of success when nothing becomes impossible unto us. Faith makes you in charge of what you do. It means that you have absolute ownership and control to dictate what happens next. To start with, it is important that we drive our dreams. In doing this, we must learn to relate with successful people who will not see us as threat to their business or political weight – hence, they must be those who fear God - 1Kings 5:2-6. Second, we must build our confidence on the word of God daily, as you are doing right now with this devotional guide – Heb. 10:35. When faced with challenges, it is needful to recall the word of God into remembrance. Third, we must take a step of faith by obeying the instructions of God through His servants; those that intercede on our behalf. Again, preserving success demands that we take note of everything that we come across. We usually create our impressions from what we see. Our senses have a way of creating mental pictures of our physical successes, and our individual behavioural response. Opportunities are there for us to shine. Every opportunity can lead to success, depending on our own quest in life. As we saw in the wine at the wedding – the lack of wine brought announcement to Jesus.

Fourth, we need to be motivated. Motivation makes “mountain movers” millionaires. Who are mountain movers? – they are those who achieve success with the mustard-seed faith in them – Matt. 17:20. Preserving success demands that we should turn every disability in our life into abilities. My definition of disability is “one's inability to see his/her abilities.” Disability is lack of power, focus, or good judgement. Inability is lack of sufficient power. You must keep building your abilities with the testimonies and the fruits of success you currently experience or see in others.

Faith confession: My weakness does not determine the purpose and plan of God for me. My disability has nothing to do with the ability of God to turn things around for my good.

Let us pray: Lord – Jesus! As I continually look unto your cross for eternal deliverance, I equally lay my weaknesses and disabilities before your feet, and received strength in return so that I can begin to reap the joy of your salvation, here on earth. Amen!

Meditation: 1 Chro. 29:12; Prov. 11:28



Shining for the Lord

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matt. 5:16



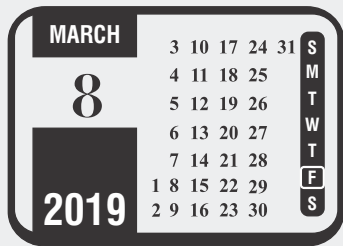
We will now break down the above anchor verse to sup meaning and wisdom from it. First, “Let your light so shine” is a heavenly command, because Jesus spoke it. Who are those expected to testify of the goodness of God in and around us? They are those in authority of leadership; they are in the world, not believers. They are those seeking for signs and wonders from the spiritual realm. What will they see when they come? It is the evidence of our faith. Jesus also mentioned our “good works” in the anchor verse above – this is our exploits and successes. These unbelievers are supposed to glorify God, because God commanded and it happened as a result of your obedience to His command to follow the footsteps of Jesus. Hence, from above discussion, if we do not succeed in our works of faith, God cannot receive honour from worldly people. They won't come with you to church for thanksgiving when your increase in life is not visible. Our success in life is a tool for evangelism. Also, we are reminded in Matthew 5:16, that our God is in heaven. This is important to us - that our God is not an image of worship

that reside in this earth. Pointing the world to heaven, was Jesus' mission. Therefore, the above command aims to encourage the world to stop the worship of idols, and repent to serve God who dwells in heaven. Shining for the Lord requires spiritual and physical vigilance. This is why we must separate ourselves from those who are like spiritual intruders, who can impact our success negatively. We can see that, until Lot departed from Abraham, Isaac was never born and God did not even make Abraham to see the extent of his wealth - Gen. 13:14-15.

Faith confession: I promise myself that I will keep shining for the Lord. My works and my conduct in society will bring honour to the name of the Lord.

Let us pray: Lord! I have made up my mind to keep demonstrating your goodness before others in wisdom and character. Help me to appreciate your presence in my life, and to follow your directions for a fruitful life. Amen!

Meditation: Isa. 42:16; John 8:12; 1 John 1:7



Attaining Perfection

*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father
which is in heaven is perfect. Matt. 5:48*



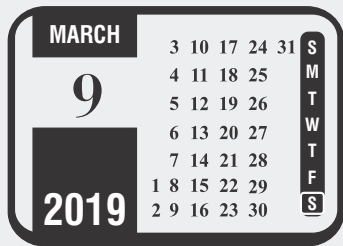
The Godhead belongs to an order of perfection. Perfection is in the ability to correct the evil that men do through the preaching of the Gospel - Matthew 19:28. Jesus says that His disciples shall sit with Him on thrones, judging those who have refused to become perfect. Perfection is dedication to the service of God after repentance - Matthew 6:24. If we serve God today and by tomorrow we don't care about His work, we are far from being perfected. God expects us to walk with Him in the recruiting of souls, and this action will qualify us as one who stores treasures in heaven - Matthew 6:20. This is what perfects our increase. Perfection brings authority to control and take charge over our life and increase. And, a master is one who thinks increase and finds avenue to recruiting men to help him succeed - Luke 6:40. Those who are perfect are only those who can receive wisdom from God. And without the wisdom of God we all will live a life of shame - Jer. 8:9. The level of wisdom in us is a measure of how perfect we have become in the Christian race. Perfection is in the knowledge of Jesus we have

daily, and how this knowledge helps to take out the shaft of sin in us - Ephesians 4:13, in the unity of Faith so that we can all have a common salvation in Christ Jesus - Jude 1:3. Perfection comes by learning the teachings of Christ - Philippians 3:12. Perfection takes out parches of shame away from us. We are always "above" as the bible says. Perfection makes us to avoid waste. Perfection is about self-control - James 3:2. It helps one to make wise decisions. Perfection is about having the right frame of mind about the established increase.

Faith confession: Lord! I am willing to walk perfectly with you. I know perfection brings increase from the Lord. Perfect walk leads to perfect bond with the Lord.

Let us pray: O! Lord, I pray that you help me to live a life worthy of your commendation. Let me not walk in the imaginations of my heart, but to live a life that glorifies your name. Amen

Meditation: Psalms 89:15-17; Isaiah 50:4-9



Perfected for Increase 1

...the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. Gen. 17:1



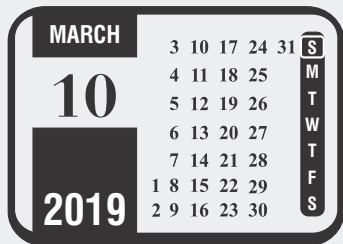
It was in a night vision on May 20, 2012, that I heard a voice asking, “who is ready to work for me like Moses and Elijah.” In this night vision, I saw myself taking out some fruits infested with stinging insects. As I progressed, because I was taking the fruits out of the forest into a storage area, insects multiplied after some time, to the extent that the path I took was equally filled by them. Consequently, I decided to walk through the bushes, which seems to be heading nowhere with more unpredicted danger. This vision was referring to the call of God upon my destiny, which is reflected also in Isaiah 42:22. To succeed in soul winning, one has to walk perfectly with God, because there are dangers ahead. In Genesis 12:1-4, the promise of blessing upon Abraham is that of “increase,” but for it to become perfected, Abraham was required to walk with God in perfection. The task ahead of him was coined in the new name God later named him – Abraham, which means – the father of nations. Even, in your business and vocational career, there is bound to be increase, as noted in Job 8:7, “Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly

increase.” This increase will only stay when you walk perfectly with God – 2 Chro. 16:9. Our increase can only be perfected when we are ready to obey God to the later. Abraham circumcised himself at the age of ninety in order to experience increase and to sow a seed of increase for his children. Many don’t see the need for increase, hence they do not also see the need to obey the commands of God. It is important to note that a disobedient heart can lead to unending suffering.

Faith confession: Lord! I know now that you perfect your saints so that they can experience your increase on every side. I also know that greatness come to those who submit themselves under your divine watch.

Let us pray: Oh! My Lord and God, ease my journey through this earth, by revealing your will early to me. I pray that you enable me to recognise the need to live a perfect life under your watchful eyes. Amen!

Meditation: Isa. 64:4; Gen. 6:9; 2 Sam. 22:31



Perfected for Increase 2

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. Gen. 12:2



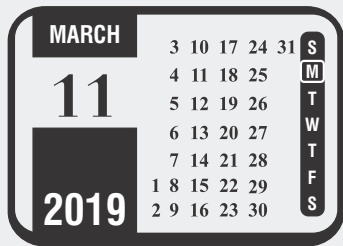
We continue with our discussion of yesterday. Now let's look at what Abraham did to perfect his increase. We must understand the anchor verse above, to have knowledge of why Abraham decided to follow God in faith. God promised to make him great. Abraham knew that God will keep to His promise. This is faith. Hence, Heb. 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Many of us want to see the physical increase before we can worship God. Our prayers sometimes are aimed at God as a worship will aim at targets in the war front, and have intentionally replaced "worship" of God with using the "warship" of God to finish our enemies. In most cases, we are the enemies of our progress, because we refuse to submit to the will of God. Abraham was perfecting his increase when he raised Altars, as scripture says. At every point, he anticipated challenge he would raise an altar of reverence unto God. If you want your increase to dumbfound unbelievers, you must be ready to raise altars of the Lord in the

heart of others by preaching the gospel. How do we become perfected for increase? This illustration of a child learning how to walk will help. For a child, the process of perfection started when the child was conceived, nurtured in the womb, and born. It will then learn to sit, before attempting to move. A child achieves movement by first learning to crawl, stand, walk, and then to run. It is a misnomer for a child to crawl after it can walk. It is also a misnomer for someone walking not to be able to run. We ought to cement our relationship with God to establish our increase.

Faith confession: There is enough evidence present in Scripture that points to the need to be perfect in the ways of the Lord. I will endeavour to toe this path of perfection in the Lord, henceforth.

Let us pray: Lord! I am convinced beyond doubt that you want us to live a perfect life. Help me to abhor evil and foolish arguments that will offend your spirit— Amen!

Meditation: Prov. 4:27; Hebrews 2:3



Behold the Lamb of God

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:30



Behold the lamb of God! is a feeling of exhalation. It is a sign of relief. The Messiah is here to tell them all things. They have been experiencing pain without knowing the reason why. They had met John the Baptist to enquire if he was the coming help of God. There was pain everywhere. Will help ever come.? Is God still going to fulfil His own part of the agreement? Their hope was getting dashed. Herod had killed all their sons, for fear of been overthrown at the news of Jesus birth. Evil was multiplying. The Pharisees and Sadducees were muzzling the oxen. The people were subjected to deprivation. There was no faith anywhere. Love had died. God was no longer in their midst. Just like the manna stopped falling, God's mercy was leaving them by the day. They wanted to be free from the claws of Satan. They prayed without watching and the lamb came in disguise, only to be announced on that faithful day by John the Baptist. How many people were there? Did they believe in the testimony of John? No - no – no! Jesus confirmed in John 5 that they did not believe in John's message of Him. John knew who Jesus was. It was time to recreate our destiny. A time to dwell under the shadow of the

most high God. A time to hear God speak to mankind face to face. The secret things in heaven will manifest here on earth. No more waiting for ages to get healed. He will only send His goodwill message and healing would come. Our entire system would be purged will hyssop. We would carry a new heart- the heart of flesh. We will become children instead of being dogs who have to regard for holy things. So many of us today are unable to appreciate this sacrifice because we haven't really experience the kind of pain the Israelites were going through. We need to continually see the need to expect freedom and deliverance.

Faith confession: Jesus – you are the Lamb of God, that came to take my sins away. Your blood gives life to my heart. In you, I have found favour to live in peace and prosperity.

Let us pray: Dear Lord! Thank you for saving my soul from eternal destruction. My prayer this day is to experience more of your mercy and grace. Let your blood plead my case before your throne daily. Amen!

Meditation: Luke 1:50; 1 Pet. 1:17-25



Fulfilling the Will of God

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. 2 Tim. 4:7



It is of no use to God if He sent you down to earth to suffer all the days of your life. It would certainly also be of no use if He sent you into the world only to stay idle all the days of your life. We are Born with a destiny. This is the fact that everyone must take into heart. We all came into this world as answers to prayers sent into the Realm of God by Humans. Hence, most successful people on earth are born by poor parents, to bring succour to the family. Jesus teaches that He came to fulfil the will of God (Jn. 4:25, Jn. 18:37). Humans must fulfil this call with total submission to God, else they cannot return to God in spirit through prayers while on earth. To be able to fulfil this task before the Lord, we all must understand our purpose on earth, and continuously return to God, and pointing others to Him so that we would live a life filled with His glory all the days of our lives. The Book of Psalms gave us several clues to this fact – God made us all (Psa. 139), God teaches us and establishes us (Psa. 119), The Lord is our Protector (Psa. 23), we must Pray and worship in His Altar (Psa. 42) we must be found serving in His Court (Psa. 65:4), and we must act in His anointing (Psa. 89:20-23). Then we will please God and fulfil our destiny on

earth (Jn. 19:30). Our destiny is our COURSE on earth (Acts 13:25). Those who are not on the path of their destiny are filled with complaints and would not Blossom in whatsoever they are doing. This is why Christ came to give us the life we lost while we were in sin so that we can abhor sin and live abundantly in Him (Jn. 10:10), and thus, fulfilling our destiny and the will of God for mankind. We may be rejected by men (2 Tim. 4:16), but there is joy ahead.

Faith confession: I understand that those who fulfils the will of God are those who have made up their mind to follow after the instructions of God, no matter the temptations that come their way. I am determined to keep pressing forward towards the Lord, even if men despises me.

Let us pray: Dear Lord! Help my heart to keep following you. Let me live to adhere to your instructions and demands of me daily. Sustain my desire in your anointing continuously. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 28:1-9; Psa. 60:4-5; 1 Jn. 3:8



Why need the Favour of God?

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. Psa. 30:5



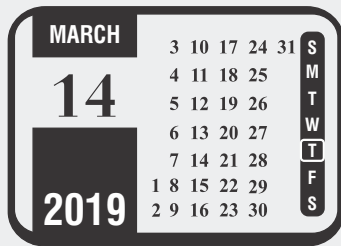
As seen from the anchor verse above, without the favour of God, there is no life. There is a special favour that follows the children of God (Psa. 106:4-5), which brings His goodness upon our lives. We all must seek the favour of the Lord with all our heart because without it we have no life (Psa. 119:58). The dictionary defines Favour as: an act of kindness performed or granted out of goodwill; preferential treatment shown to somebody; something given or worn as a token of love, allegiance, or goodwill. So, when the Bible says in Luke 2:52 that Jesus found Favour with God and man, it showed that Jesus never lacked anything. We would see that the moment Jesus grew in Spirit, Wisdom and Grace, He became favoured. No Wisdom of God in us, No Favour from God (Pro. 8:35). This is why we are in this subject. The Bible says that there are somethings we are not supposed to struggle for as we live (1 Cor. 2:12-13). The life of favour is what Christ gave us the day we surrendered our entire life worries to Him. In other words, when you give your life to Christ, you wear a new garment of favour - Isaiah 61:10, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of

righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels." Hence, Favour is a manifestation of the presence of God in our midst. In effect, Favour distinguishes anyone who is in a perfect relationship with God (Gen. 39:21, Esther 2:17). Someone experiencing favour from God is one who receives reward for his/her labour. The Lord ensures that you are not cheated but adequately compensated (Ex. 3:21, Ex.12:36). Favour in the sight God makes one not to experience wretchedness (Num. 11:15). Favour brings establishment (1 Sam. 2:26; 1 Sam. 3:19-20).

Faith confession: I understand that without your favour I will equally not receive favour from men. I am willing to grow in your knowledge so that your favour can sustain me.

Let us pray: Oh God! In your glory dwelleth your help and favour. I seek your glory this day. I seek to understand you more. I pray to sustain your glory and power daily. Hide me under your protective wings, and let me soar like the eagles in your wisdom. Amen!

Meditation: John 15:1-11



The Dangers of Immorality

Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness. Leviticus 19:29

At about 5am on the 17th of April 2016, I saw a huge and very tall creature looking like a man but with its face, almost resembling partly human and partly crocodile landing on the African Continent - somewhere in North Africa. It turns around and what I saw were images of people committing all manner of sexual immorality everywhere. The image proud itself around - arrogantly and aggressively with a club in its hand - the Club (the tick end has sharp objects looking like nails). And it utters its voice - "The Peace in Africa cannot be subdued like this." The following are the implication and interpretation of this revelation: There is high level of sexual immorality in Africa that is being masterminded by evil forces, with the purpose of perpetuating wickedness. Wickedness invites the anger of God - and there will be persistent war in the land - Psalm 91:7-8. But somehow, even with the multitude of sexual immorality, the mercy of God has sustained Africa, and the devil is not happy with this. The sexual immorality also represents high level of Idolatry in the land - despite our commitment to follow the Lord. We have in most cases become religious prostitutes, and this is masterminded by the devil - with our mammon-induced and material sermons - there is now high level of religious prostitution. The creature that represents

the devil is not happy with the relative peace being enjoyed in Africa - and so, it has left to plan a more aggressive way to take peace out of Africa - and this could mean continuous war and pestilence. Devil hates Africa, because it was here that the Bible was first assembled together, starting with Moses and the book of Mark. We have one hope – Jesus Christ. As you go into prayers today, plead for the mercy of God, so that we are not forsaken. We should pray for the Lord to watch over North Africa, since it seems the war and desolation will come from that end. Let us stand in intercession for the weak in Christ, to renew their strength in Christ. Let the cloud of the Lord's protection be over Africa.

Faith confession: I understand now that the sexual immorality and sermon of mammon in the land is masterminded by the devil, to destroy Africa.

Let us pray: Lord! I join others interceding for Africa right now. Let your armour of peace be over the entire land scape. Let the spirit of immorality and mammon depart from Africa. Let men begin to hungry for your divine instructions and wisdom. Amen!

Meditation: Psa. 91:1-16



Belonging to a House of Worship

...know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth? 1 Tim. 3:15



Jesus final place of teaching was the temple, where he stayed to minister every day – Luke 21:37. The disciples followed after his footstep and preached in the temple and in every house – Acts 5:42. What should not be done in the House of God? Jesus action of driving away those who were selling and changing money demonstrates that it shouldn't be a place to extort money from worshippers - Matthew 21:12-14. Why? It is because buying and selling in the house of God will take the attention of the congregation from God to the god of money (Mammon) – Luke 16:13. How do we compare this character with modern day selling of holy water, holy oil, holy mantles, etc.? We also read in Haggai 1:5-11, that God was interested in the renovation of His house. Some have argued that it is old testament. Well, care for the house of God have yielded fruit in my life, and there are many testifiers who have said that they no longer live in want since they started caring for the house of God. One of the problems of many who claim to be Christians is that they don't see the importance of the sanctuary of God. The anchor verse above calls the house of God as the pillar and ground of truth. Even if many preachers have turned it into a market place, don't we have a duty to sanitise it as Jesus did? David's success was sure, because he was useful as a

green olive tree in the house of God(Psa. 52:8) – making musical instruments to praise God (1 Chro. 23:5). Hence, David was able to invoke the anointing of God upon the congregation who came worshipping. We cry to God in His house when oppressed and in pains - Judges 21:2. This is because, it is called a holy mountain and a house of prayer where God promises to make us joyful - Isaiah 56:7-8. Hence, it is a gathering place where God uses our testimonies to strengthen others. The house of God is a place where people gather for a united purpose, as it gives identity to the people of God. The Shekinah rest in the house of God, where His presence causes Healing, Revelations, Deliverance, Restorations, etc.

Faith confession: I understand that I need to regard your house and all that is in it – to regard them as items sanctified and consecrated unto you.

Let us pray: Lord, I may not have treated your house with respect, and may not have known that it is hallowed unto your name. Now that I know, give me the heart and understanding to regard your house with all respect. Amen!

Meditation: Luke 19:47; Psa 42:4; Psa. 52:8



The Shekinah in the House of Worship

...the Son of man shall come in his glory; and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: Matthew 25:31



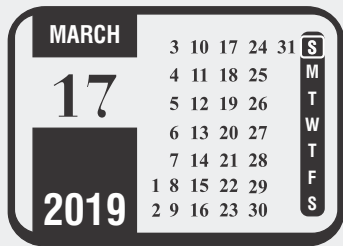
The Shekinah is found in the throne of God. It announces the presence of the throne of God in our midst. Revelation 5:11-12, tells us what happens in His throne – as it is the duty of both the elders and beasts in heaven, and all that dwells on earth to return all glory to God. The Immanuel Cloud of His presence is created in our house of worship when we worship and adore Him in holiness and righteousness. For the presence of God to continually be in the midst of the Israelites while they were sojourning, God told Moses to make a Tabernacle (The House of God) after a pattern as revealed in a vision to him - Exodus 25:9,20,21,22,40. Not until this pattern was set in place was there any meeting before the Lord. This was why Jesus had to drive out those who turned the heart of men into appreciating worldliness in the temple – a supposed house of prayers for repentance (Mat. 21:12-14). When David went to bring the Ark the first time, he hasn't built a house yet for the Ark - and we would see that the Ark didn't get to the City of David (2 Samuel 6). This is because what will house the shekinah during praise and worship was not in place. The Shekinah is the spiritual atmosphere that makes wonders to happen. It carries the Glory of His presence - this is the ultimate event every sincere worshipper should desire. This can

be seen at the upper room and during the dedication of Solomon's temple. It was this glory that was missing when Jesus went into the temple that made Him to chase out the things that prevents God's glory from resting. The Hosanna song generated the Shekinah Cloud as Jesus proceeded to the temple in glory with His angels, hence He said the Hosanna was the perfection of praise (Mat. 21:16). Had Jesus stopped the praise as the Pharisees wanted (Luke 19:39-40), He wouldn't have had the zeal of the Spirit to chase the money changers out. The Shekinah Cloud creates a heavenly traffic for angels to easily move to and fro - between heaven and earth (Genesis 28:12, John 1:51).

Faith confession: My Lord, I understand that your shekinah accompanies your presence. I will henceforth sing unto your glory to attract the shekinah cloud of your presence before I pray.

Let us pray: Dear Lord! I need the zeal of your spirit to help me praise you always. I pray for the release of your shekinah cloud over me and my household whenever I lift praise unto you. Let your heart desire fill my mind always as your shekinah releases your love upon me. Amen!

Meditation: Exo. 14:19-20; Eph. 2:12-22



Becoming Resourceful and Influential

... Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he ...Matthew 11:11



The anchor verse above says we can be resourceful and influential. This we can achieve through Christ that strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). Resourceful people are able to use the resources at their disposal to solve challenging problems of life. It is this ability in them that equally makes them influential. There is no way one can be influential without being resourceful. We might have read of the stories of inventions in society, as men try to find solutions to their day to day problems. This trend is not unique to our modern world alone – as we see the inventions of man in computers, cars, trains, airplanes, etc., but have existed from Bible days. Else, how did Noah built the ark? How did Joseph invent the first food storage, estate management and banking system? A resourceful person does not complain to condemn but to restore. In Luke 2:52, we read that Jesus found favour with men. Can one be favoured by humans without been useful to them? We must be mindful of the fact that Jesus grew up as a carpenter, so He was resourceful. I have seen Christians praying for favour, yet have nothing to offer. Did manna fall from heaven upon everyone on earth? No! it fell within the border of the Israelites in the wilderness because they were children born into the covenant of the Lord with

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Abraham was resourceful, so was Isaac and Jacob. The Lord blessed Laban because of Jacob, and he was favoured and became rich. Without knowledge, there is nothing one can offer. This is the story told in Daniel 5:12, of how Daniel was filled with "...an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubt." Hence, Daniel's spirituality was useful in solving problems. We must be willing to learn and do something new, with the aim to change our situation of want for the better.

Faith confession: Lord! I want to be resourceful and influential. I see great opportunities before me by the power in your grace. I am determined to be a solution provider to problems affecting the church and society.

Let us pray: Ancient and everlasting father, in your will there is direction. In your purpose, there is promise. In your grace, there is favour. Through your mercy and loving-kindness, make me resourceful and influential all the days of my life. In the name of Jesus Christ - Amen!

Meditation: 1 Corinthians 2:4; James 1:22



The Bible as a Spiritual Mantle

Where the word of a king is, there is power ... Eccl. 8:4



The day I read the above anchor verse, was the day I began to see the entire Bible in a different light. The Bible contains the words spoken and inspired by the Spirit of God. Our God is the LORD of Hosts. In Malachi 1:14, He revealed Himself as a Great King – "...I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts." A great King would also have Great Power and the book that contains His words should equally contain great power. This is why the Bible by your side right now is a spiritual mantle. The breath of God is upon our Bible, because His Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote it. In the book of Job 1:20, and Job 2:12, we are told of how it was the practise in those days of men carrying their mantles about. From both verses, Job and his friends rent their mantle as if saying – "why didn't this mantle save Job?" which means, the devil wouldn't have had power over Job if God hadn't taken away His power from his mantle. Prior to Job's predicament, we are made to know what the mantle did for him in Job 29 – he had the power to rule, acquire wealth and command respect from everybody. One special thing about mantles is that their effectiveness lies in the presence of the Lord. Through the Bible, Mantles were rent when it was obvious their presence didn't save a situation (also see Ezra 9:3). Whatever the mantle touches are possessed by the power in them, and often becomes

dedicated to the work of God – 1 Kings 19:19-20. A mantle paves way for you when you encounter obstacles hindering your achievements 2 Kings 2:8. It is a symbol of authority. Though, we now have Bible applications on our mobile phones, iPads and Tablets, it is important you have a print copy that you can lift as a standard against every obstacle in your life. You can equally lift the Bible towards heaven to be ignited with the fresh power of the Lord from time to time. A time came, when I was experiencing stagnation and denials, I bought a new Bible – lifted it towards heaven, and I prayed – "Lord give me a new word to lead my life." I can testify today that the Bible is a mantle with Power from above. It is one of the spiritual battle bearers.

Faith confession: Today, I understand that the Bible is endowed with power from the throne of grace. I also know that the Bible can link the believer to the power of God.

Let us pray: Dear LORD! You are really not far from mankind. Your power is available for all who understand and believe your word. Help me to study your word daily. Amen!

Meditation: John 6:63-64; Luke 4:32; 1 Cor. 4:20; 1 Thess. 1:5



The Power in Greetings

And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. Luke 1:41



Several, as believers we often become powerless when we encounter situations that tend to threaten our faith. We may have been harassed in our work places or intimidated by unseen evil forces manifesting through unbelievers. If we feel so powerless, it is because we haven't known the power that lives and manifests in those who have the Spirit of Christ. The world we see today was formed by the incarnation of powers in words. The saying in Galatians chapter 4 verses 1 to 6, only explains a process that enables us to exercise our rights in the Lord. In verse 6, Paul explained that the Spirit of Christ will cry in our Heart. This is very practical, and it is the onward working presence of God in us. This is spiritually thought provoking. Have we ever thought of what will happen around us when the Spirit of Christ cries in our heart? This was exactly what happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth. The Christ in Mary's womb followed the voice of Mary and became incarnated into the Spirit that filled Elizabeth. Jesus did not make the work of soul winning so difficult. We may have also heard of how thousands were added to the church when the Apostles preached, and even the Centurion's household receiving the Holy Spirit as Peter preached about Jesus and Salvation. The power of Christ is in the

word we speak, once we become His temple. He is willing to speak through us from time to time. He will fill us with the fullness of the spirit of God in Christ - John 3:34. What will be difficult unto us, if God that makes all things possible speaks through us and not by measure? Greet someone after you have studied the Word of God or after you have prayed in the Spirit, and see men respond and becoming filled with the Holy Spirit. Try and take note of how people smile and leap for joy when they hear your voice over the phone. It is the working of the spirit of Christ, crying in your heart.

Faith confession: My Lord, let this understanding guide me into receiving the spirit of Christ. I am willing to yield to your control and leading. Let me be conscious of the leading of your Spirit.

Let us pray: Today, I pray that your incarnate form should take over my heart. I lean my heart to receive you. Help my inner mind to appreciate your presence, and let your presence take over my voice. Let your spirit flow through the words I speak, and let men respond to my voice with joy and the willingness to listen to me. Amen!

Meditation: John 6:68; 1 Cor. 2:4-16



Exercising Self-Denial

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank... Daniel 1:8



Daniel realised he had the consciousness of the God of Israel within him, that he was not willing to defile Him. Our God is Holy, and whoever identifies with Him must thrive to live a holy life (Deut. 7:6), except we don't want to become His instruments of peace (Mat. 5:9) wherever we found ourselves. If you must be for God then be ready to deny yourself some of the pleasurable things you see around. Daniel denied himself the King's food and drinks so that he might not offend God. Once we have yielded to the Lord, we become hallowed unto His glory. Hence, our mouth, stomach, ears, eyes – all our members, are equally set apart for the use of the Lord. Else, how will the spirit flow from our belly as rivers of living water, if our stomach is defiled with things hated by God? How can our eyes keep seeing evil and still be able to behold the glory of God? How can our ears hear words that do not glorify God and still be able to hear what the Spirit says? Everything that is hallowed unto the Lord is possessed by His Spirit. God expects that all our members must give Him thanks. How can we lift up Holy Hands when we defile the members of the body with our hands? It is common knowledge that whatsoever we love is what we also die for. This devotional topic is important to me because today is my birthday. It is a day I usually ask myself if I have done enough to merit the favour and love of

God. Angel Gabriel referred to Daniel as one that is "greatly beloved" by God in heaven – Dan. 9:23. Why? Heaven revealed that Daniel set his heart to understand the word of God – His precepts and instructions and exercised self-denial for the sake of God – Dan. 10:12. As we can see throughout the book of Daniel, he was indeed greatly beloved to have been able to read and interpret the handwriting on the wall – Dan. 5:17-31. In fasting, we deny ourselves of foods and drinks. However, God expects us to be holy at all times. Hence, we must guide what we communicate by our outlook, including our words and dresses.

Faith confession: Lord, I now understand that I can be defiled by my actions. I also know that those who are defiled cannot be accepted by God and that I need to submit myself under the tutelage of the Lord to understand the things to avoid and remain undefiled before the Father.

Let us pray: Lord! Help me to remain undefiled. Though I live in the midst of defiled people, let me not be enticed by their defiled communications. Guide my ears and eyes to behold only those things that exalts and give you Glory. May your light be ever-present in my life. Amen!

Meditation: Lev. 18:24-30; Mat. 15:18-20



The Glory of Restoration

And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. Joel 2:25



What a glorious moment it is when we have the inner feeling and the physical manifestation that we have been restored back to the position we had lost in life. Is this not the reason many trooped to meet Jesus as Scripture revealed severally? The importance of restoration to God and the hosts of heaven is seen in Isaiah 42:22, when God said His children were delivered for a “spoil, and none saith, Restore.” Can we really restore someone with the word of the mouth? Is this not what God is saying above – that we ought to speak restoration upon the dead situations we see around us? So far, we have studied that the word of God carries His power – that power that we need to turn every ugly situation around. We have also studied that the bearer of the word must be conscious of the working name behind the words of restoration we speak. The name of God is the one that does the restoration. Hence, God spoke to Moses in Exodus 33:19, that “...I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.” Why proclaim the name of the Lord before being gracious and merciful to those that wait upon Him if there was no power in the “Name of The Lord?” We knee and bow to the Lord – that is, serving God at the feet of Jesus Christ, through the finished work at Calvary, and with this understanding

our tongue will confess to God, of His mercy and grace – Isa. 45:23. Without recognising that Jesus have paid the price for our iniquities, there is no way we can worship God in truth and in spirit, and our restoration will never come. Whatever is eating you up is not greater than the power in the restorative WORD of God – Jesus Christ; Let them be spiritual cankerworms, caterpillars, and palmerworms, now that you recognise your freedom in Christ, kneel before Him and confess the grace of God upon your soul continually, and your freedom will manifest in the physical for all to see, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Faith confession: I surrender my case in the palms of the Lord. I will henceforth kneel before the cross of Calvary, the source of my hope and confess the Lord wherever I go.

Let us pray: My Lord, you are the confessor of my faith. I bow before your throne of Grace and Mercy. I confess you O God! as the canopy over my soul. Let my soul be restored with the joy of your salvation. In the name of the Lord – Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Amen!

Meditation: Rom. 14:11; Phi. 2:10; Zech. 10:1; 2 Cor. 13:11-14



Receiving Spiritual Authority

...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. Rev. 2:17



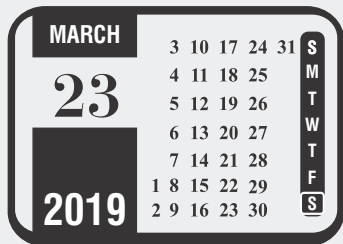
Our labour in the Lord is not in vain. The items listed in the anchor verse above are too important to be neglected. Why is it that some pray and get response earlier than others? Why would Gabriel personally come to answer Daniel, as we studied on the 20th of this month? In 1 Samuel 3:1-9, Samuel heard a voice he never heard before, but Eli with his experience knew the voice was that of the Lord and he told him to reply to the voice “speak Lord for your servant is listening.” From here, we can see that our Lord is easy to approach and speak to. Now, let us go back to the anchor verse above again, there is a spiritual manna – different from the one that the Israelites ate in the wilderness (John 6:49), but this hidden manna will lead to life everlasting (John 6:58). There is also the promise of a personalised white stone of authority, because our spiritual journey is an individual race. Now, I want to mention a term I refer to as “Spiritual Intelligence,” which deals with one’s ability to discern spiritual interludes and perceive them when they occur. These interludes happen every day of our life and they are to quicken us when we are about taking the wrong decision. When you are spiritually intelligent, you make only right decisions. Your spiritual intelligence has a lot to do with the measure of your faith. It is important that we know when prayers are answered or whether someone can be healed by your prayers. In Acts 14:8-10,

Saint Paul knew that the man born a cripple from his mother’s womb could be healed, because he saw that the man’s faith was enough to make him whole. Our level of spiritual intelligence is a measure of the authority we have received from the Lord, as indicated in the anchor verse. God revealed Himself to Moses as “I am that I am.” God is not in the past alone. He was in the past, now in the present and will be in the future – never changing. If we understand that “He is,” nothing will be impossible unto us. This was the boldness that strengthened Joshua, Moses, and all faith workers in the Bible, and even now. Surrender yourself for His use, and He will feed you with the Hidden manna and reveal Himself to you in a white stone, with a unique name that when mentioned, will throw out every gate obstructing your breakthrough.

Faith confession: Lord – Today, I understand that spiritual journey is not milk and butter, and that it requires my spiritual discipline, attentiveness and focus.

Let us pray: O – Lord! I pray that you reveal yourself to me more and more as I draw more to you, to encourage me to keep drawing closer to you. Amen!

Meditation: Mat. 8:14-16; Acts 19:13-17; 1 Cor. 2:6-8



Reasonable Service

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1



It is important that everyone driving a car should know how far a litre of fuel can take his or her car. If you are using a generator through the night, it is equally important to know what amount of fuel can keep the generator running, else you will wake up in the middle of the night to refill the tank. This is only when we will get reasonable service from our cars or generators. Our Lord expects us to be of reasonable service unto Him. How many of us have enough spiritual fuel to take us through this journey of life? A car driver travelling a long distance frequently stop over by a filling station to buy more fuel so that the car does not run out of fuel. It is important we understand the need for spiritual refuelling to ensure we can complete this Christian race and be found worthy of our Lord and King - Jesus Christ. We must be available for His work at all times. It is not an acceptable spiritual order that when the Lord come visiting we are found not prepared and useful for His work. The anchor verse above says that we must ensure our body is put in an undefiled manner always, to stand waiting on the queue for the Master's use. In Acts 20:24, Paul indicated that he was sold out for the gospel, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I

might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." One can only be bold to say this when he or she understands his or her position in Christ. This is the reason Scripture advises us thus – "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" – 2 Tim. 2:15. The more we study, the more we know what is expected of us.

Faith confession: I understand that I need to put myself in order for the use of the Lord. I also understand that I need to keep studying your word, and seeking understanding from your Holy Spirit. I know you can make me a vessel unto honour for your use.

Let us pray: Oh Lord! Help me to stand firm in your knowledge. Help me to keep feeding on your divine wisdom. Let my understanding of your ways enable me to serve you reasonably in sanctity and purity of my body and soul, and not in spiritual dirtiness. Amen!

Meditation: Luke 12:35-48; Luke 19:12-27; 2 Tim. 2:21



Walking the Faith

*For we walk by faith, not by sight: ... we must all appear
before the judgment seat of Christ...Knowing therefore
the terror of the Lord, we persuade men2 Cor. 5:7-11*



The difference between a secondary school leaver and a graduate is the level of knowledge inherent in them. This knowledge may or may not make one of them richer than the other. What makes the difference is the level at which each of them is willing to pursue their destiny. Faith has to do with wholesome belief in the word and efficacy of the word of God. Walking the faith is exercising the power in the word of God to overcome fear, doubts, poverty, lack, etc. When you walk the faith, your actions convince God that you are His son or daughter, hence qualified as heir of the Kingdom through Christ." This understanding will enable you to live above the limitations of this physical world. We transcend mortal boundaries into immortal circuits of existence. This is what Saint Paul is persuading believers to understand in the anchor scripture portion above, that it is better to seek the knowledge that edifies the spirit within us, rather than appreciate the physical limitations that we experience when we are in this physical body. Have you wanted to reach a brother without a phone or other means, only to see the brother visiting and saying he had the leading to come visiting? Our spiritual being communicates our heart desires to whomever we want to reach if only we can keep living and walking in the faith. The Lord has called us into His everlasting kingdom of light. It is a betrayal of trust to

deny Him our love and dedication to the gospel of truth. Sometimes, it is difficult to persuade people to live for the Lord, and to support His work in our midst. Jesus explained to the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God is within them – Luke 17:21. Are we still looking here and there for His Kingdom? The Kingdom of God is wherever the gospel of truth is taught and preached. Hence scripture says – “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” – John 8:32. We are implored to seek, know and live by the truth. This is our duty. If the Spirit of Christ guides us into all truth, and we lived by the truth, we won't be afraid to appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

Faith confession: It is my responsibility to seek, know and live by the truth. This is how I can walk the faith. I am determined to press forward and remain dedicated to the call of God upon my life. I am willing to fulfil my destiny in you my Lord, and to live a perfect life before your throne.

Let us pray: Oh Lord! Let your incarnate word dwell in me continually. Help me to recognise your presence always, so that I can live to walk out my salvation with fear and trembling. Amen!

Meditation: Rom. 8:37-39; 1 Peter 3:1-12



Duty Call

*When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt,
ye shall serve God upon this mountain. Exodus 3:12*



It was one early morning, as I used the ATM to get some money, the machine had displayed I had insufficient fund in my account., that I heard – “Is it not because of this that you abandoned my work?” as I retrieved my card from the machine. When I looked around, there was no other person around who could have spoken to me in this manner. I thought within myself, what manner of mockery was this. This was when I knew that if I truly follow the bidding of the Lord, to teach His word, He is more than ready to put smile on my face. In 1 King 19:19-21, we read of how Elisha left all he was doing when Elijah threw the mantle at him, because there is a call of God upon his destiny. We all have a role in the house of God. We shall be taking a closer look at our service before the almighty lord. This also defines the measure of what type of reward we must receive from Him. You are called out to be the “grain” and not the “chaff.” We sow grains to get increase. And, as you surrender to His will, your life keeps transforming for the better. Our God is the most faithful employer, honestly rewarding those He employs into His vineyard. This is why King David testifies that He was an Olive tree in the house of the Lord. Is this not true? Haven't you read or sang the Psalms of David lately? David stood tall in the house of God as a man after God's heart. We must fulfil our duty call. Many believers are so conscious of heaven

that they seem to pray for their dying day to come now. We must complete our task here, before we will die and meet God in heaven. Saint Paul indicated that it is “woe” unto whoever does not preach the gospel, after receiving the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ – 1 Cor. 9:16. Some have said that Paul was laying a curse upon himself, executable if he fails to preach the gospel. The context indicates otherwise – God holds us responsible if those who would have received the gospel never did because we fail to reach them by our own laxity and negligence. We can also see the duty call upon Samuel in 1 Samuel 12:23: “...God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way.”

Faith confession: Lord – I am sorry for not recognising the fact that I have a duty to preach and teach your gospel. Now that I know, I promise to carry out this task dutifully.

Let us pray: Oh Lord – Help my weak spirit to stand firm in obedience to your call upon my life. Strengthen me to support your work wherever and whenever you want me to. Amen!

Meditation: 1 Samuel 12:20-25; Psalms 25:8; Psalms 51:12-13



The Anointing Upon the Head

*...tongues like as of fire, ... sat upon each of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:3-4*



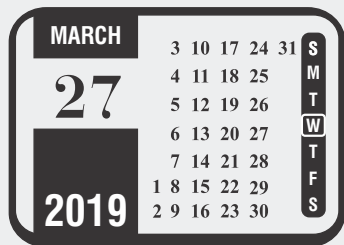
This event is the most glorious testimony of the fire in the anointing of the Holy Ghost, which proceeded from the Father, at the request of our Lord - Jesus Christ. This is the best gift that ever came down from heaven. The children of Israel celebrated their freedom from Egypt through the parting of the red sea. Christians celebrate their freedom from bondage through the impartation of the Holy Ghost. The purpose of the Holy Ghost in the life of Christians can be explained using the following analogy. Every engine requires fuel so it can deliver its strength, so we need the Holy Ghost anointing to fire and purge our inner being of dead works to enable us function as the elect of the Lord. Also, the way rain requires a dark cloud to overshadow the earth before it starts to rain, so we need the Holy Ghost to overshadow us before we can be soaked in the anointing. Just as a fruit on a tree is the result of a seed sown into a fertile ground, so our manifestations and exploits as sons of God is dependent on the presence of a contrite heart in us to receive the Holy Ghost. It is important that we understand that the anointing of God ignites us for greater exploits. God's anointing provokes your inner self into a state of self-realisation. In the anchor verse above, the anointing from the Lord rested upon their head before they became filled with the Holy Ghost. We must position ourselves for the anointing to rest upon us. Our head is the first part of

our body that God consecrates (Exo. 29:7; Lev. 8:12). Hence, in Numbers 6:7, the vow of a Nazareth included not shaving his head, "because the consecration of his God is upon his head." Today, we have the anointing of the Holy Ghost filling us the moment the Lord pour His oil upon us. And, the Lord ignites the oil before it drops upon our head – hence it appeared as a cloven tongue of fire upon the disciples. The fresh anointing from the Lord is a burning sensation upon our head, from where it sends a warm quivering signal or feeling of cold thrills all over our body. The quivers or thrills can be felt as tingling on the limbs, mostly on our fingers. The breeze accompanying the anointing pushes some to the floor. What an experience!

Faith confession: I now understand how I can receive the fresh anointing from the Lord. I am willing to position my head for His anointing.

Let us pray: Oh Lord! I present my head for your fresh anointing. I pray: Let your fire rest upon me, and let your Holy Ghost fuse into my bones and flesh; Let your fire burn in my bones from now henceforth; I want to experience the cold thrills and warm quivers. Amen!

Meditation: Psalm 89:20-21; 1 John 2:27; Isaiah 10:27



Divine Visitation

For thus saith the Lord, ... I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, ... For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Jer. 29:10-11

When someone is in possession of what belong to you, certainly you will one day visit him. God always want to be with us because we are His own, purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. When we are anointed, God comes into our life and leads us to start working for Him, because the anointing we receive belongs to the Lord. It is an empowerment to work for God. The anointing introduces us into the "committee of friends" of God – what I usually call the "circle of influence." Now that we understand that God can visit us, let us see instances of when God visited mankind. In the anchor scripture portion above, God promised to visit the children of Israel in Babylon after allowing them into captivity for 70 years, as a demonstration of His faithfulness and covenant keeping nature. When God visits righteous people, He blesses them like He did to Abraham and Sarah – Gen. 17:19-21. His visitation can be a time for deliverance from oppression for those who favour His righteous course. Anytime He visits the unrighteous and wicked, He comes with calamities and woes upon them, as seen in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah – Gen. 19. God visits the proud – those who have no regard for His precepts with woes also, as seen in Jeremiah 50:31-32, "Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud, saith the Lord God of hosts: for thy day is come, the time that I will visit thee. And the most proud shall

stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up..." When God visits idol worshippers, He brings down their altars of worship – Amos 3:14, "I will also visit the altars of Bethel: and the horns of the altar shall be cut off, and fall to the ground," and punishes them for their idolatry – Hosea 2:13, "And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels..." It is important for Christians to know that when we gather to praise God in songs, we are calling for His visit. Also, when we gather for all nights of prayer, we are calling for His visit. When we make supplications in our closets, we are equally calling for His visit. When He does visit – He rewards and punishes. This is why it is very important that we ensure we abhor evil and repent of our sins, before calling for His visitation.

Faith confession: I understand that I need to repent of my sins before seeking the visitation of the Lord. I know His visitation can either lead to blessings or punishments.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, I pray that you purify my soul, and set me apart for your blessings when you visit. Raise me up in your character, and let me become established in your nature. Amen!

Meditation: Exo. 32:34; Psa. 80:14-19



The Peace of God

*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace,
as in all churches of the saints. 1 Cor. 13:33*



Godly peace is worth experiencing and it is meant for some special set of people. They are those who worship at the churches of the saints of God. The anchor verse above indicates that where the saints are gathered; the peace of God is equally present with them. A church gathering where there is rancour and disagreements is a church where Lucifer is making sway. Apostle John in 3 John 1:9-11, recognised the presence of those who draws men from the truth, and teaches them to do evil in the church. In verse 11, Apostle John cautioned – “Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.” The learning from here is important. Christians are supposed to watch where they fellowship and what manner of persons they associate with. Anyone without the peace of God sown in his or her heart is not one to have anything to do with. We might be passing through one ordeal or the other in life, but our fervent wait on the Lord, provided we have repented of evil against His person, will bring us peace. Such was the case of Joseph, who was sold into slavery. The Bible recorded that though he suffered, there was a time his word came – the word of the Lord tried him and found him worthy of the peace of God, there and then he was brought before the

King of Egypt, where he was made Lord of the palace, and teaching Egyptian senators wisdom – Psa. 105:17-22. Our interest is in Psa. 105:19, “Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him.” The day that you receive the word of the Lord – purposely sent for your sake, and that word confirms you faithful, that is the day your breakthrough will happen. We all have what I will refer to as a “waiting period.” It is a period when our faith is put to test. This is when our loyalty before the Lord is confirmed by angels. Jesus equally reminded Peter of his time of trial – and prayed for him to remain faithful till the end – Luke 22:31-32. We can experience the peace of God, we only need to remain faithful to the end.

Faith confession: I am encouraged to continuously hope for the day the Lord will send His word to me. That day that my faithfulness will be confirmed by heaven.

Let us pray: Lord! I pray that you send me your word and heal me. Let my waiting not be in vain. Let your word distinguish me and bring me before authorities, as it did to Joseph. Amen!

Meditation: 1 Chronicles 16:20-22; Psalms 107:17-22



Supernatural Lead

...I will lead them (the blind) in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight...Isaiah 42:16



The anchor verse above mentions that God will lead the blind. I was once asked who are the blind? Some see the blind referred to above as those who have lost their sight physically. Yet, the Bible explains the blind referred to above – Isaiah 42:20, “Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.” They are those who have lost spiritual connectivity to the throne of God. Hence, it becomes difficult for them to perceive the presence and works of God in their midst. God promised to take us by His own hand and lead us as seen from the anchor verse. If we are blind spiritually, there is no way we can achieve anything on earth. God’s leading paves the way for us to experience His love and care. When God cares for us, we are sure of increase in all we do in life. If God must lead us, we must be aware that He is calling and waiting to take our hand. This is the purpose of the anointing – to establish a father-son relationship with us. This is the indication in John 1:12, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” The path of the Lord is a path that leads to eternal life and not destruction. As the anointing rest upon our head, the darkness in our life departs for the light of God to take control of our destiny. The Lord is willing to take the lead, while we follow. All He needs from us is obedience to His

instructions. This is corroborated in Exodus 23:20-22, “Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.” We can see the instruction clearly stated above – it is all about total obedience. Many believers want God to lead them, yet their physical outlook are abominations before the angels of God.

Faith confession: My Lord and my God, I am determined to follow you wherever you lead me henceforth. I anchor my faith on your loving kindness. I propose not to allow anything take my focus away from the cross, where my sins were nailed and the power of death defeated.

Let us pray: Lord – I pray: Take me to the place of the river and let me drink from the waters of your precious spirit. Invade my heart with your love, so that I can do the things you do. Let your mercy and grace help me to stand firm in faith. Amen!

Meditation: Exo. 13:21-22; Neh. 9:12-19; Psa. 27:11



Experiencing Unlimited Grace

*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee:
for my strength is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9*



Much has been said about Grace. To unrepentant sinners, it is the permission to live in sin. Again, Grace is believed to mean the power to make more money by businessmen, whose interest in church is only to make money at all cost. To the married, Grace is the power from God to enable them to endure the challenges in marriage. For ministers of the gospel, Grace is the power and the consciousness of the finished work of Christ at Calvary, which they point men to and live by. Grace is Grace. It is the will of God to bring men of all kinds to the kingdom of light where humans will do the will of God. In Isaiah 1:17, the purpose of Grace can be seen as equipping mankind with the ability to learn how to please God. Christ also point to the purpose of Grace in John 8:29, "...the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." What are those things that establish the work of Christ and that of Grace in our midst? We have a leading in Isaiah 1:17, "...seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." Jesus equally accused the religious leaders of this sin, for they "... omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith..." – Matt. 23:23. So, since Christ is the author of Grace, we can take learning from His life to establish the purpose of Grace, as indicated above. Let's see what the anchor verse explains; Paul was willing to do the work of God, yet he met opposition daily from someone he termed as messenger of

Satan. This made him become weak towards preaching the gospel as he ought to. We can affirm this in 2 Cor. 12:10, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities (weakness), in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." Paul was not chasing wealth to his hurt, the hurt of others and the negligence of the work of faith. He wasn't committing sexual immoralities with congregants, and wishing for Grace to sustain him. Paul was focused on the call of the cross - 1 Cor. 3:10. He wanted to reach more and more people, but for the persecutions he was experiencing– 1 Cor. 4:10-13. To enable him to succeed, he prayed for Grace, and it was given by the Lord. As we can see, Grace is not the freedom to live life in a dastardly manner. Even if Grace helps us to make wealth, we must observe the terms in Isaiah 1:17 and Matt. 23:23.

Faith confession: Lord - I understand that your Grace is made available for those whom you have called to do your bidding and who are willing to support your righteous course on earth.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, teach me how to live in your Grace. Sustain my thoughts in your righteous will for humanity. Let my soul be among your harvest in the end. Amen!

Meditation: Gen. 6:5-8; Ps. 45: 1-7; 1 Cor. 15:10



The Jubilee Anointing

And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Romans 15:29



In Leviticus chapter 25, God told the Israelites to keep the fiftieth year as a year of jubilee and the celebration was to mark the beginning of a new life for them. As a result of their preparation for this celebration they will experience liberty, redemption, returning to their possession, freedom from oppression, dwelling in safety, three years of miraculous increase, supernatural abundance, etc. Today, we can still experience and be partakers of the special blessings associated with the year of jubilee. The Jubilee anointing is what I often refer to as the anointing of jubilation. Is this not what the death of Christ achieved for us? It is of course. You see, Christ granted us unrestricted access to the throne of grace. We are His Jubilee harvest. All we need to experience the Jubilee grace is to receive the anointing of the Lord. The purpose of this jubilee anointing is to hasten your footstep into this special spiritual year of abundance. Christ made all things possible unto those living by His grace. Sometime ago, I was facing some challenges. I needed a new kind of favour. Then, I read Leviticus 25:10, "...it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession..." While I thought on this, I heard a voice – "you can experience the blessings of the year of jubilee. Everyone who is in Christ really don't need to wait that far to experience the goodness of God. All you need is pray for the anointing of the year of jubilee, and the

Lord will grant you your request." I did as I was instructed by that voice – I prayed for the jubilee anointing, and I can testify I have not experience lack since then. One special condition that must be observed is in Leviticus 25:17, "Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the Lord your God." Now, the gospel is the jubilee, which marked the acceptable year (the jubilee) of the Lord – Luke 4:18-19. Anyone who receives the gospel wholeheartedly, experiences the blessings in the anointing of the Jubilee, as proclaimed by Paul in the anchor verse above – "the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ." Welcome to the experience of jubilee. It has started. See you in April. Shalom.

Faith confession: I understand that since I have received the gospel with my heart, I am qualified to enjoy the blessings of the acceptable year of the Lord – the year of supernatural abundance.

Let us pray: Oh Lord – I pray that I will experience your supernatural abundance from the month of April 2019. Let your infinite mercy anoint me with the jubilee anointing. It is time for me to jubilate in increase. Men shall celebrate with me henceforth. Amen!

Meditation: Psalms 112; 2 Chronicles 1:12; Ecclesiastes 5:19

NOTE

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Covenant Confession

If you are not born again, you may have studied this devotional as literary material and will not receive the spirit therein. You can make a decision to correct that now by saying this covenant confession:

Lord Jesus, I know now that you died for my sins. I believe and confess you as my Lord and Saviour. Please come into my life and dwell inside me.

If you just said this confession, you should locate a spirit-filled church to join in fellowship with them – let the pastor know you just gave your life to Christ and you will be directed on what to do next. Salvation is a personal race and you must be serious with it.

You can also call us through the numbers below:

+2348076190064; +234-8086737791.

Or send the author an email: umonthoja@yahoo.com

Partnership!

If you are led to support this **WORK financially**,
You can contact the author on umonthoja@yahoo.com
Or send your **contribution** as “Devotional Support” to:

Account Name: Royal Diamonds Int'l Church

Account No: 2018430512

Bank: First Bank of Nigeria Limited



Other Books By The Same Author

- Existing In The Supernatural
- The Altar In Golgotha
- How Good and Large is your Land?
- Born To Blossom
- Battles Beyond The Physical
- The Path To Absolute Freedom
- The Man God Made
- Aspects of Marriage
- Leadership – An Eagle-Eye Perspective
- Gifted and Anointed
- The Subject of Love – A Discourse
- The Mystery Of The Kingdom Of God On Earth
- Understand Your Destiny
- The Nonsense of War
- Wealth Making and Financial Planning

*You can get
copies
online
from Amazon or
other leading online
books stores*

Follow Pastor Oghenethoja Umute on:



Oghenethoja Umute



@PstUmute



umuthoja



umuthoja



Thoja

Worship with us at



**Royal Diamonds
Int'l Church**

(Christ Movement)



Nnanta Close, Off Weli Street, Eneka Road, Rumunduru, PH



08086737791



info@christmovementinternational.org

WEDNESDAY

5:30PM

SUNDAY

8:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

7:30AM

- A total transformation in the way you Think and Act
- Understanding the basics of the Christian life
- How to Exist as sons of God
- How to Manifest the true Nature of God
- Total Freedom from satanic maneuvers
- How to make Heaven

About the Author

Pastor Oghenethoja Umute me encountered God the day he was baptised at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Owhelogbo Delta State, when he received a warm feeling in his heart as he confessed the Lord Jesus as His lord and personal saviour. His birth was surrounded with mysteries – he was born to a mother who had been barren for eight years. There was hardly anything he said that did not come to pass as he was growing. In 1994 he had a dream in which he received an orange which contained a bible with a red cover. Events continued dramatically until he started hearing voices telling him to go for rescue, as many souls were heading for destruction. Then it became clear to him that he was being called to carry out the task of restoring mankind back to Jesus.

In January 2006, he heard a voice telling him to read Isaiah 42. On



reading to verse 6, he felt a deep force within him and started trembling and a voice said - 'I have called you.' As he read further

he was getting immersed in the spirit of God and when he read verse 22, the voice said, 'this is your task.' Then on the 13th of October 2008, he heard a voice while driving: 'Service starts in your house on Sunday.' Events happened that were beyond his understanding and on Sunday 19th October 2008, the first public worship service came to pass.

He is trained at Rivers State University, Nigeria; Robert Gordon University, UK; UNICAF University, Cyprus; Nations University, USA; and TGSAT, India; leading to academic degree certificates in engineering, organisational psychology, divinity and theology. He has over 11 years' work experience as an engineer, growing to the position of Engineering Design Lead in the oil and gas industry, and equally has a rich curriculum vitae that covers trainings and experiences in other works of life, such as human resources management, marketing management, legal studies, alternative dispute resolution, etc. Pastor Oghenethoja Umute me is married to Pastor(Mrs.) Umute me Adokiye Obele, who supports him in the call of God upon his life, and their marriage is blessed with children.